

WHAT'S NEW ABOUT REDESIGN

The Child Welfare Services (CWS) Redesign fundamentally changes the ways in which child welfare services are administered in California. Practices being changed are based in part on successful efforts already underway in a number of counties throughout California and in other parts of the nation. The following provides a summary of changes that will be taken to scale statewide through Redesign.

<i>Traditional System</i>	<i>Reformed System</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is based on intervention, which is often seen as punitive and adversarial ▪ Is built on “one-size-fits-all” intervention model ▪ Measures effectiveness as a reflection of compliance with process-oriented service plans ▪ Minimizes exercise of professional judgment ▪ Focuses on processes and timeframes ▪ Establishes the Child Welfare agency as the single entity in charge ▪ Tends to regard reunification in “either/or” terms – either reunify or place in adoption or other settings ▪ Provides limited support for foster children transitioning out of system ▪ Does not systematically incorporate evidence-based practices ▪ Is restricted to funding mechanisms that are tied to specific strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Is based on prevention and early intervention before problems occur or become intractable ▪ Through a new intake process, shifts to customized assessment of need and appropriate response ▪ Measures effectiveness in terms of children’s safety, permanence and well-being ▪ Promotes collaboration and non-adversarial relationships ▪ Focuses on results and meeting the needs of the family as a whole ▪ Calls on a network of agencies, service providers and families within the community (with built-in accountability) ▪ Underscores the value of reunifying by maintaining and enhancing connection between children in care and their birth families ▪ Adds supports for young people as they leave foster care ▪ Creates a process for infusing evidence-based practices into work with families and children. ▪ Allows flexible funding based on what is necessary for children and families’ well-being